

2006 Forest Plan Huron-Manistee National Forests – Administrative Correction #2 July 17, 2009

Delisting of bald eagle from the List of Endangered and Threatened Species.

Administrative corrections are defined at 36 CFR 219.31(b) in the 2000 Planning Rule, which became the effective rule for National Forest System planning on July 15, 2009¹. Such corrections may be made at any time and are not Forest Plan amendments or revisions.

Administrative corrections can be made under this rule within the following categories:

1. Corrections and updates of data and maps,
2. Updates to activity lists and schedules (proposed actions, anticipated outcomes, projected range of outcomes,
3. Corrections of typographical errors or other non-substantive changes, and
4. Changes in monitoring methods other than those required in a monitoring strategy (referring to the requirements for monitoring sustainability criteria in the 2000 rule).

The Federal Register published final rule 50 CFR Part 17, removing the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucophalus*) from the List of Endangered and Threatened (T & E) Wildlife species for the lower 48 states of the United States. This action was published on July 9, 2007 and became effective August 8, 2007. The bald eagle continues to be protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The bald eagle will remain on the Regional Forester's sensitive species list for at least the next five years (FSM 2670, R9 RO Supplement 2600-2000-1).

Direction contained in a July 17, 2007 letter from the Eastern Regional Office directed Forests to modify their plans as needed to align the language in the plan and its appendices with the current T & E and Regional Forester's Sensitive Species listing.

Administrative Correction #2 replaces pages I-1, II-26, and II-30 of the 2006 Forest Plan.

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¹ Compliance with District Court Injunction in, *Citizens for Better Forestry v. USDA*. Deputy Chief of the Forest Service memo, July 15, 2009.

Chapter I - Understanding the Forest Plan

Introduction

Lying between the shores of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron in the northern half of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, the Huron-Manistee National Forests (Forests) are located in a transitional zone between forested lands to the north and agricultural lands to the south. Formed by glaciers thousands of years ago, these lands are characterized by relatively low relief, abundant sand, clear water and diverse forests. These lands were exploited by wholesale clearcutting, burning and poor farming practices around the turn of the 20th Century. The diverse, maturing forest ecosystems that exist today are the result of nearly a century of forest management by the Forest Service and its conservation partners.

The Forests serve as a “backyard” playground for many Midwest residents with over 60 million people living within a day’s drive of enjoying the Forests’ recreation opportunities. Much of the Forests’ lands are intermingled with private and state lands and other recreational facilities.

Water resources on the Huron-Manistee National Forests include 1,800 miles of streams and 17,000 acres of lakes. The Forests contain legendary high quality, cold-water river systems of national significance. The Au Sable, Manistee, Bear Creek, Pere Marquette and Pine Wild and Scenic Rivers and tributaries provide a nationally-recognized network of premier “blue ribbon” fishing opportunities.

The Huron-Manistee National Forests continue to provide a variety of benefits to the people who use them. The Forests’ vegetation management program is the primary tool for restoring and providing a diverse range of sustainable habitats for many species, supporting forest health and providing wood fiber. The Forests also provide unique habitats for a variety of rare and sensitive fish, plant and animal species, including approximately one-half of the known breeding habitat in the United States for the endangered Kirtland’s warbler. The Forests also provide critical habitat for other threatened and endangered species such as piping plover, Pitcher’s thistle, ~~bald eagle~~ and Karner blue butterfly; and provide habitat for a variety of game species. The Huron-Manistee National Forests also provide opportunities for the development of mineral resources, where such use can occur in an environmentally safe and sound manner.

Location of the Forests

The Huron-Manistee National Forests are located in the northern Lower Peninsula of Michigan. As shown in Figure I-1, the Forests are actually two proclaimed National Forests combined in 1945 for administrative purposes.

The Huron National Forest is approximately 60 miles wide and from 12 to 30 miles long. It abuts Lake Huron at Tawas and north of Harrisville and is located in portions of Alcona, Crawford, Iosco, Ogemaw and Oscoda Counties.

reproductive female bats are found, the project may proceed using the established conservation measures and operating procedures committed to in the biological assessment. Mist netting results are valid for a three-year period only. If a project has not been completed within this time frame, a new survey will be required.

- 8 Protection zones will be established around maternity colonies where discovered. s
- 9 Upland water sources will be provided for the Indiana bat by:
 - a Developing water holes in wildlife openings along the forest edge. s
 - b Utilize maintenance level 1 and decommissioned roads to provide upland water sources, where feasible. s
 - c Designing road construction and reconstruction projects to include small waterholes adjacent to the road, where feasible. s

~~D Bald Eagle~~

- ~~1 Implement the Bald Eagle Management Plan for the Huron-Manistee National Forests (USDA-Forest Service 2006, or current version).~~** s
- ~~2 Federal oil and gas leases will contain a no-surface-occupancy stipulation for areas within 1,320 feet of a bald eagle's nest.~~** G
- ~~3 Bald eagle territories will be closed to public entry during the breeding season, where necessary.~~** G

E Kirtland's Warbler

- 1 See 2600, Management Indicator Species and Chapter III, Management Area 4.2, for Standards and Guidelines. G

F Great Lakes Piping Plover and Critical Habitat

- 1 See Chapter III, Management Areas 4.2, 4.3, 5.1 and 8.2 for Standards and Guidelines. G

G Karner Blue Butterfly

- 1 Implement the Karner Blue Butterfly Recovery Plan (USDI-Fish and Wildlife Service 2003b, or current version). s
- 2 Resource management activities, such as road and trail construction and vegetation management, will be designed to protect and improve potential Karner blue butterfly habitat. G
- 3 Roads and trails may be relocated or decommissioned, as deemed necessary, to protect wild lupine. G
- 4 The following applies to unoccupied potential habitat:
 - a Conduct pre-activity surveys to determine presence/absence of the species. If the s

III Regional Forester Sensitive Species (See the individual management areas in Chapter III for other Regional Forester Sensitive Species).

A Common Loon

- 1 Manage lakes with known loon populations to provide high quality nest areas and forage base with consistent water levels during the nesting season. Use artificial nesting rafts where appropriate. G
- 2 To protect nesting loons, use closure orders during the breeding period where human disturbance is a concern. Prohibit motorized watercraft or create no-wake-areas where appropriate. G
- 3 New developments will consider impacts on loons and should be placed one-fourth mile or more from nest sites on lakes with known loon populations. G
- 4 On lakes with known loon populations, manage or remove species that compete with loons, such as mute swans, within existing authority and with cooperating agencies, where needed. G
- 5 Fisheries management activities on lakes with known loon populations should ensure that loons are not harmed, caught or captured. G

B Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake

- 1 Implement the Management Recommendations for the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake on the Huron-Manistee National Forests (USDA-Forest Service 2004, or current version). G

C Northern Goshawk and Red-Shouldered Hawk

- 1 Implement the Management Recommendations for the Northern Goshawk on the Huron-Manistee National Forests (USDA-Forest Service 1993, or current version). G

D American Marten

- 1 Consider the American Marten Conservation Strategy for the Huron-Manistee National Forests (USDA-Forest Service 1996a, or current version). This Guideline does not apply in management areas 5.1, 8.2 and 9.1. G

E Bald Eagle

- 1 **Implement the Bald Eagle Management Plan for the Huron-Manistee National Forests (USDA-Forest Service 2006, or current version).** s
- 2 **Federal oil and gas leases will contain a no-surface-occupancy stipulation for areas within 1,320 feet of a bald eagle's nest.** G
- 3 **Bald eagle territories will be closed to public entry during the breeding season, where necessary.** G